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WEATHER
Sunny, breezy & cold today & tomorrow, 30s.
SUNSET: 4:31 P.M.
SUNRISE TOMORROW: 7:16 A.M.

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EXCLUSIVE *By Pete Hamill:*

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RFK ON THE BOOK -AND JACKIE

Ruby, Dying, Denies Conspiracy

Dallas, Dec. 19 (AP)—Jack Ruby in his dying days still insists there was no conspiracy involved in his killing of Lee Harvey Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the assassin of President Kennedy.

Ruby, fully aware he is dying of cancer, wants to take any scientific test to prove for history there was no conspiracy.

"Jack has told me a dozen times or more he prays to be given a final lie detector test so people will be convinced that there was no plan on his part, or conspiracy of any kind, to kill Oswald," said Ruby's brother, Earl, a Detroit businessman.

"It is his last wish."

Earl Ruby and Elmer Gertz, Chicago lawyer and member of the legal team which on Oct. 5 won a reversal from the death sentence for Ruby, described Ruby's plea to do anything to erase any doubt that he acted alone in shooting Oswald. They had seen Ruby an hour earlier in Parkland Memorial Hospital where Ruby, under guard, is undergoing treatment. This is the same hospital where mortally wounded President and Oswald were taken.

Gertz and Earl Ruby were asked whether Jack Ruby has any regrets about killing Oswald and thus making impossible a trial, perpetuating for all time the feeling that the full story of the assassination will never be known.

"He has regrets, but they are not so much about Oswald," said Gertz. "These are regrets about the havoc caused to his people."

Ruby, a Jew, is known to feel that his action reflected poorly upon the Jewish people.

'There Is Nothing to Hide'

"Jack reads the newspapers and magazines and watches television and is aware of the controversy about the Warren report and all the books and articles which are constructing incredible stories of a conspiracy in which he is claimed to have had a part," said Gertz.

"He says, 'How can they think I am hiding anything or protecting anyone else? There is nothing to hide: there was no one else.'"

As he lies gravely ill, he still maintains—according to Gertz and Earl Ruby—that "I never met or knew or saw Oswald until I saw him in jail, and I never knew officer Tippit."

The Warren report said Dallas policeman J. D. Tippit was slain by Oswald when Oswald fled to the Oak Cliffs sections of Dallas after assassinating Kennedy.

Gertz and Ruby said that Jack Ruby today acts like a man who wants to remain alive long enough to be convinced that others believe beyond question that he "acted out of overwhelming emotion and without malice and without premeditation."

They said Jack Ruby keeps referring to his movements the morning of Sunday, Nov. 24, 1963, when, drawn by curiosity, he entered the basement of the police and courts building, and, "on impulse and the purest of chance, shot Lee Harvey Oswald."

"And he is bewildered that it is not plain to everyone that it was a million-to-one chance that he would stumble into a situation in which it was even possible that Oswald could be shot," said Gertz.

Gertz and Earl Ruby said Jack Ruby has no recollection of the moment he shot Oswald.

"That is a complete blank in his mind," said Gertz. "When he goes over every detail of his movements, he comes to that point and it is a blank for him. He does not deny he killed Oswald, but he has no memory of it. He does remember going into the basement. Then the next thing he remembers is being grabbed by the police."

Gertz said one of the ironies of the case was that police were absent from the street, allowing Ruby to commit a minor traffic offense to get to the Western Union office.

'No Hope of Escape'

"If Jack hadn't made an illegal turn on Main St. to go into a parking lot in order to be closer to the Western Union office," Gertz said, he couldn't have been in the basement at the precise moment police were transferring Oswald..."

"Only the most disturbed mentality could think or believe there was a plan engineered so that an assassin would have an unset, unknown period of a few seconds in which to do his job. It would have to be a plan, also, in which there was no hope of escape."

Jack Ruby, himself, says—according to Gertz and Earl Ruby—"would I leave Sheba in the car if I planned to do such a thing?"

Sheba was his favorite dog. Many persons testifying about Jack Ruby's life said he treated his dogs as though they were his children. After he shot Oswald, his first concern was for Sheba. He asked police to attend to her. But he made no mention of money also in the car.

Gun Was Registered

"Jack always carried a gun, for he sometimes had large sums of money. That morning, he had $2,200 in cash," said Gertz. "It was a weapon registered in 1960 with the police. He had been arrested twice before for carrying an unregistered gun."

While the medical bulletins from Parkland Hospital—issued by Dallas County Sheriff Bill Decker—report Ruby's condition as "unchanged, resting comfortably," Earl Ruby said his brother "seems to get worse in front of your eyes.

"I saw him in the morning, and then came back a few hours later, and you wouldn't believe the change in him," said Ruby. "He looked like he was shrinking away."

The brother said Jack Ruby is cheered by sympathy expressed by the public through Christmas cards.

Despite the expressions of sympathy, Gertz said, "Jack still thinks millions of people believe there was a sinister plot to kill Oswald and he is preoccupied with wanting to prove there was not."

Gertz said Ruby's anxiety about having a lie detector test amounts to a dying man wishing that his final testimony be tested.

Honor for Humphrey

Post Photo by DeLucia

Vice President Humphrey accepts honorary degree from Dr. Joseph H. Lookstein, chancellor of Israel's Bar-Ilan University, as Mrs. Max Stollman of American Women for Bar-Ilan looks on at the Waldorf. Humphrey said U. S. will "energetically oppose aggression in Middle East.

Lindsay Needles Wagner For the Hospital Crisis

By BILL BURRUS

The Republicans and Democrats agreed today that the city's hospitals are a mess but argued bitterly over who is to blame.

Mayor Lindsay, in a TV interview yesterday, said he would welcome an investigation of the hospitals to "let the people see what an incredible system we've inherited."

Many of the charges about hospital conditions by State Sen. Thaler (D-Queens) are valid, Lindsay said, but are caused by "a quarter-century of delay and neglect."

Asked about this reference by Lindsay to the administrations of his last three predecessors — Democratic Mayors O'Dwyer, Impelliteri and Wagner—Wagner shot back:

"I feel oftentimes people in public life try to hide their own shortcomings by blaming them on the past."

Ex-Mayor Wagner defended his administration's hospital practices, saying it had "spent much more than any other administration" to improve hospitals and get "better interns, more nurses, more doctors."

Lindsay, implying a political motive for Thaler's attacks, said nevertheless "legislators have license to talk as much as they want . . . It's part of the political process."

But Thaler retorted that he is not up for reelection for two years, and that his investigation was started along with other members of the Joint Legislative Committee on Public Health and Medicare, of which he is ranking minority member.

Appearing on Ch. 2's "Newsmakers," Lindsay appealed for cooperation with Health Services Administrator Brown and Hospitals Commissioner Terenzio while they make "profound changes" needed.

Brown and Terenzio, meantime, appeared on WNBC-TV's "Direct Line" program, and agreed that there are serious problems in the city's hospital system. But both rejected Sen. Thaler's charges that $100,000,000 has been lost in the last four years through payroll padding, double-billing by doctors, diversion of equipment and other practices.

Terenzio called Thaler's charges "grossly exaggerated," and Brown labeled them "sensational, and not based on careful analysis." Both said they would welcome an inquiry by the State Investigations Commission.

Thaler, interviewed later, claimed the city officials are reciting "a script developed by some public relations man," and asked: "Why don't they stop defending themselves and start doing something instead—make some efforts to improve hospital conditions?"

"Forty per cent of the thousands of letters and phone calls I am getting are coming from doctors and nurses who agree with me and express hope that the miserable hospital conditions will be improved," he said.

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